PRESS RELEASE

PHASE II TRIAL OF IMATINIB IN AIDS-ASSOCIATED KAPOSI'S SARCOMA:
AMC STUDY #042

Rockville, MD, February 25, 2015:

In a pilot study conducted by the AIDS Malignancy Clinical Trials Consortium (AMC), Imatinib, a drug approved for chronic myelogenous leukemia and gastric intestinal stromal tumors, caused partial regression of AIDS-associated Kaposi’s sarcoma (KS) in five out of 10 participants. KS is a tumor caused by infection with human herpes virus 8 (HHV8).

This multicenter phase II study was designed to estimate the response rate to imatinib in AIDS-associated KS. Secondary objectives included investigation of predictors of response and imatinib pharmacokinetics in participants on antiretrovirals. Participants received imatinib 400 mg/day by mouth for up to 12 months. The dose was increased up to 600 mg/day at 3 months if their disease was stable.

Thirty participants were treated at 12 AMC sites. Ten participants (33.3%) achieved partial response, six (20%) had stable disease, and seven (23.3%) exhibited KS progression. Nine participants completed 52 weeks of imatinib therapy. The median treatment duration was 22.5 weeks. Only five participants (16.7%) discontinued therapy owing to adverse events. Antiretroviral regimens did not significantly change imatinib metabolism.

Imatinib has activity in AIDS-associated KS. Pharmacokinetic interactions with antiretroviral drugs did not correlate with toxicity. Thirty percent of the participants showed long-term clinical benefit and remained on imatinib for the entire year. These results suggest imatinib is well tolerated and may be an alternative therapy for some people with AIDS-associated KS.

Reference:

AIDS Malignancy Consortium Trial #042: A Phase II Trial of Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec) In Patients With HIV Related Kaposi's Sarcoma

For more information about HIV-malignancies, please visit our website:

http://www.AIDScancer.org